

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY USSR

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SUBJECT: Relations between Quartermaster Corps of Soviet Army and Air Force/Air Force Supply Depots/Air Technical Battalions

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The quartermaster service of ground forces has its own personnel and assigns workers only to the ground forces. However, in rare cases, when the Air Force has no qualified personnel in its ranks and requests a worker to be detailed from the General Army Personnel Section, such a request is honored. All Air Force personnel, including the detailed quartermaster officer, wears the Air Force uniform. Only, in order to distinguish quartermaster personnel from the rest, quartermaster insignia are added to the Air Force insignia on the shoulder strap. Similarly, the prosecutor of an Air Force division wears the additional insignia of the legal branch of the service.
2. It often happens that quartermaster officers detailed for summer duty with the Air Force remain with the unit permanently, because it is to their advantage. They willingly study the customs of the Air Force and acquire the techniques employed in its supply service. This is true because work is easier in the Air Force units; the food and uniforms are better; and the pay is almost double. The Air Force generally has better educated and bred people than the infantry or other ground units. If after a period of service in an Air Force unit, an Army man on special detail proves unfit for it or does not wish to remain in it, he is returned to the Army.

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4. In wartime, the main army depot or one of its branches services all Army but not Air Force units located in the region of operations--its own units with all the quartermaster items and units of other divisions or armies operating in the region, only with food provisions and fuel. The latter receive their other supplies from their own divisions or armies, as the case may be, in spite of the fact that they are located far away from their main body.
5. The same front, army, or division depot issues quartermaster supplies to every type of Army troops located within the limits of a front or a military district. The norms for food and clothing rations, as well as the terms for the wear of uniforms, are identical for the field artillery, armored tank, infantry, and other units. There may only be a difference in the style of a uniform. No Army depot, however, issues any supplies to Air Force units. Air Technical Battalions, in common with other Air Force organizations, draw their supplies from the Air Force Quartermaster Corps.
6. [redacted] only two Air Force supply depots, both of them in occupied Germany. [redacted] one depot was in the region between Perleberg and Wittenburg, directly near where the 16th Air Force, previously commanded by Vasilii Stalin, was stationed. The second large supply base was in the town of Magdeburg. [redacted]
7. [redacted] storage depots in Soviet-occupied Germany, information to 1948:
 - a. An underground storage of aviation gasoline was located in Boltenhagen $[53^{\circ}58', 11^{\circ}15']$. It was situated near a former German airfield and the Baltic Sea.
 - b. In the region of Gadebusch $[53^{\circ}42', 11^{\circ}07']$, there was a huge underground gasoline depot built by the Germans before World War II and fully preserved, i.e. it had not suffered from the war, and hundreds of thousands of tons of gasoline were discovered there, which remained intact.
 - c. There was a store of aviation gasoline in Parchim $[53^{\circ}26', 11^{\circ}51']$ but not underground and not so well camouflaged as in the Gadebusch region, and practically without technical equipment. This gasoline was stored in a railway cistern covered with a thin layer of earth and turf, 50-70 centimeters thick, and leveled with the surface of the ground. Up to 1948 a motorized battalion of the 18th mechanized division was encamped there, concealed by a forest. Since the time of arrival of the Soviet Army in Parchim no stranger entered that territory.
 - d. A supply base of airplane spare parts and motors was located between Perleberg $[53^{\circ}04', 11^{\circ}52']$ and Wittenberge $[53^{\circ}00', 11^{\circ}45']$ near the disposition of the 16th Air Force.

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